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TUESDAY
DECEMBER 22, 1953

Tracy Voorhees came to see me this morning. He is going home in a few days and would like, with John Hughes, to visit Washington and see whether American policy cannot be defined in regard to the stationing of troops on the Continent in the event the EDC is ratified. I approve of the necessity of this provided it is handled as a NATO matter and not in response to a unilateral demand from the French. Ever since Charlie Wilson made his unfortunate remark that the recruitment of German soldiers would permit the withdrawal of American troops, the British and Continental members of NATO have been alarmed over this question. It was never contemplated that a German military contribution would be in substitution for American detachments posted in Europe but, in spite of the denials of Dulles and the President of the validity of Wilson's statement, our Allies have been asking for reassurance on this point.

We had expected the René Mayers to lunch with us but, because of the situation at Versailles, they were unable to come. There the proceedings have temporarily come to a dead stop. Today an attempt will be made to have Laniel and Naegelin withdraw and unite all parties on some new candidate. The sessions both for this afternoon and tonight were cancelled and the electors will meet again tomorrow at ten a.m.

We had an enjoyable party tonight at the house for the members of the Mission. There were a flock of children present and no casualties.

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